

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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1. A tendency toward laxness has been noted among Soviet border elements since late March 1953. Also, militiamen, collective farmers, and other government workers appear to have lost some of their vigor. For example, on 4-5 April 1953 over forty trees were felled by Iranian peasants who crossed the Soviet border near Namin within sight of Soviet guards. There was no reaction. Other peasants have reported border crossings in which Soviet guards waved them back across the line, but did not fire a warning shot as they customarily had in the past.
2. Soviet villagers in the towns of Anvaz, Tango, and Armudli, all near the border, are being moved to the Lenkoran (N 38-45, E 48-50) region. Over forty trucks are used daily in moving the peasant families. In a meeting with the Iranian border commander, Lt. Col. Mosinkov, acting commander of the Soviet Guard, said that the villagers were being sent to Lenkoran to work on tea, tobacco, and hemp farms. Mosinkov denied rumors that the villagers were being moved out of the border area because they were "friendly" with the Iranians across the frontier.
3. On 4 April Mosinkov proposed that the Iranian Border Commander at Astara meet with him to negotiate the repatriation of Iranian Private Gharibi (fnu) of Ardebil Eighth Regiment, Second Battalion, who had fled to the USSR about three months earlier. In exchange, Mosinkov requested the return of a Soviet private who had fled to Iran earlier. The Iranian commander indicated that he did not hold any Soviet soldiers, but wished only to discuss the repatriation of the Iranian private.
4. The Soviets recently turned over to the Iranian authorities an Iranian woman, Saris Bikas, and her three children, who had fled from Belyasuvor.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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